

## **Our Mission**

To prepare individuals to embrace a diverse community, attain their personal goals, and aspire to become contributing citizens by providing assistance and support.

April 9, 2010

RE: In favor of maintaining full budget for the C&C of Honolulu Community Benefits Grant for Leeward Coast nonprofit agencies.

Dear Councilman Garcia and Budget Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Making Dreams Come True, Valley of Rainbows, a nonprofit agency serving youth on the Leeward Coast. We have been a recipient of the C&C of Honolulu Community Benefits Grant for the past 3 years. With the support of these funds we are able to provide important educational programs for 450 high school students, grades 9-12, from Nanakuli, Waianae and Kapolei High School. We provide resources and support so our youth can achieve their educational goals and achieve their dreams with an annual Youth Leadership Conference and a College Planning workshop. Over the past 3 years, these funds have supported 1356 youth.

We are asking the Budget Committee to maintain full funding without cuts of the Community Benefits Grant through the Office of Community Services to support Leeward Coast programs and nonprofit agencies. These funds allow many nonprofit agencies to implement important projects for our community residents, youth and families. These are important projects and critically needed, especially during these economically challenging times.

Please do not cut funding or reduce the budget for FY 2010-2011 for the Community Benefit Grant!

Sincerely,

Denice Keliikoa, CFRE

President

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